Irrational drugs

404. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Commission of Macro-economics and Health (NCMH) set up by Government has identified drugs like Liv-52, Diglue and some blood tonics, analgesics, nutrients, liver-drugs, as irrational, useless or needless drugs;

(b) whether 10 of the 25 products sold in India in 1999 were found belonging to one of these categories; if so, the details of these drugs; and

(c) if so, the steps taken and being taken to prevent manufacture, import and sale of such drugs or to rationalize the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) No, Sir. The report of the National Commission on Macro-economic and Health has not made any such specific observations. A background paper on access of essential drugs and medicines written by Dr. S. Sakthivel for the National Commission on Macro-economics and Health has made certain comments regarding irrationality of 10 branded products commonly prescribed/used in the country. None of these products are, however, hazardous and their irrationality also appears to be acceptable in the context of their intended use.

(c) Review of rationality of safety of marketed drugs is a continous process and is based on examination of such products in the context of contemporary medical and scientific evidence. This involves consultation with experts and manufacture and sale of products, which are considered to lack therapeutic adequacy or having adverse benefit risk profile, are prohibited from manufacture, sale and import by Government of India.

Amending MCI Act

405. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have proposed amendments to,the Indian Medical Council Act to reconstitute the Medical Council of India (MCI), making

it accountable to the Parliament and to reorient and standardise medical education in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when the amendments in the Medical Council Act are likely to be carried out?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. In order to improve the overall functioning of Medical Council of India (MCI) and to ensure transparency and accountability in MCI, the Government of India has introduced an Indian Medical Council (Amendment) Bill, 2005 in the Rajya Sabha. The amendments have been proposed with following major objectives:

* to make it more representative, complete and compact in nature;
* to empower the Union Government to give directions to the Council in respect of policy matters; and
* to provide for taking appropriate action against the President, Vice-President or Member for abusing its powers/incapacity/non-compliance of Central Government's directions willfully.

The matter has been referred to Standing Parliamentary Committee for detail examination. The report of the Committee is awaited. The standard of medical education in the country is maintained by the various regulations made by MCI and these are periodically reviewed keeping in view the latest developments in the field of medicine and various other factors.

Anti-malaria insecticide net

406. SHRIMATI SUKHBUNS KAUR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Gas Authority of India Ltd. has lately developed an anti-malaria insecticide net, with Japanese collaboration to effectively tackle the menace of malaria;

(b) the salient features of the anti-malaria insecticide and its effectiveness to prevent the menace; and